

Car washing

Most soaps contain chemicals that can negatively affect water quality. The soap, together with dirt, metal, and oil washed off a car, flow into nearby storm drains and ultimately into our creeks, lagoons and ocean.

- Car washing is not allowed on city streets.
- Consider washing your vehicle at a commercial car wash.
- If you wash your car at home, try to prevent soap and water from running to the street or storm drain by washing your car over a pervious surface such as a lawn, and by using water sparingly.
- Use a hose with a nozzle that automatically turns off when left unattended.
- Wash water should be dumped to landscaped areas or to the sanitary sewer, never to the street or storm drain.

Pets

Pet waste is a threat to both human and environmental health. One gram of dog waste can harbor more than 23 million microorganisms of bacteria.

- Carry a bag when walking pets and be sure to pick up after them.
- Keep your pet on a leash for the health of our environment and for your pets' safety.

Pool, spa and fountain maintenance

- Only dechlorinated, pH-neutral water is allowed to be drained to the street and storm drain system.
- Ensure that the flow of water is controlled to prevent erosion.
- Do not backflush filters or filter materials to street or storm drain.



Storm Water Protection Program

1635 Faraday Ave.
Carlsbad, CA 92008

For more information, visit
www.carlsbadca.gov

To report storm drain issues,
please call 760-602-2799 or
e-mail stormwater@carlsbadca.gov.

 Printed on recycled paper
Photographs © City of Carlsbad
and iStockphoto.com



Storm Water Protection Program

Residential Guide to Pollution Prevention



The City of Carlsbad's storm water conveyance system is made up of streets, gutters, curb inlets, pipes, ditches, basins and drains, as well as natural drainage such as creeks and lagoons.

The storm water drainage system is not connected to sanitary sewer or treatment facilities. Rainwater and urban runoff transport pollutants directly into our creeks, lagoons and ocean.

Here are some simple best management practices to help keep pollutants out of our waterways.

For additional information, please visit the Storm Water Protection Program page on our website www.carlsbadca.gov.



General housekeeping

Some simple housekeeping methods can not only prevent storm water pollution, but can also conserve water and resources:

- Use a broom, wire brush, mop or other methods to clean outdoor surface areas. Never hose or wash anything to the street or storm drain.
- Dump wash water to landscaping or to the sanitary sewer. Check with your local water treatment facility if you have questions about what can be discharged to the sewer system.
- A good rule of thumb is to consider any outdoor drain as connected to the storm drain system, which flows directly into our creeks, lagoons and ocean.



Lawn and garden care

Landscaped areas can pollute our local waterways with fertilizers, pesticides, insecticides, sediment and green waste that run off from overwatering or during rain events.

- Do not apply fertilizers, pesticides or insecticides three to five days before any forecasted rain event. Always follow manufacturer's directions and apply sparingly.
- Consider using environmentally friendly approaches to pest management.
- Use mulch, edging or appropriate plantings to keep dirt and sediment from running off during rain events.
- Compost yard waste or place it in a curbside recycling container.

- Check irrigation systems frequently for leaks and overspray, and minimize watering times.
- Native, drought-tolerant plants reduce the need for water, fertilizers and other additives.

Home improvement projects

Do-it-yourself projects should be properly maintained to prevent illegal discharges to the storm drain system.

- Locate all landscape drains and storm drains within the project area. Consider covering them to ensure nothing flows to the street or storm drain.
- Store hazardous material such as paint or solvents in closed containers and protect from rain. Recycle at appropriate hazardous waste facilities.
- Always rinse or wash materials and equipment in an area where water cannot flow to landscape drains, street, gutter or storm drain.
- If materials such as dirt must be temporarily stored onsite, protect them from the rain and irrigation runoff.

Vehicle maintenance

Pollutants from vehicles such as oil and grease, copper and dirt can enter our storm drain system. It is estimated that 180 million gallons of oil enter waterways each year through urban runoff.

- Leaking vehicles cannot be parked on city streets.
- Vehicle maintenance cannot be performed on city streets. NEVER let any automotive fluids flow to the street or storm drain.
- Use rags or drip pans when repairing vehicles, or under leaking vehicles.